



**MARIN COUNTY MAJOR CRIMES TASK FORCE
ANNUAL REPORT
2003**

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW:

The Marin Major Crimes Task Force was formed in 1977 at the recommendation of the Marin County Police Chiefs Association. It is a cooperative effort linking ten out of eleven of Marin's cities and the county to provide a central investigative unit capable of crossing jurisdictional boundaries for the stated purposes of assisting each other in the detection, apprehension and prosecution of highly mobile criminal activity and combating its influence throughout Marin. The unit is intended to supplement and augment the efforts of the existing local law enforcement agencies to better deal with major criminal activity that no single jurisdiction can effectively deal with alone.

Prior to July 1993 officers from the various participating agencies staffed the Major Crimes Task Force. Since July 1993 Sheriff's deputies, working under Sheriff's Department rules and regulations have staffed the Major Crimes Task Force. The unit continues to work under a Joint Powers Agreement with the cities and county. In 2003 the city of San Rafael opted not to participate in the funding of the Marin Major Crimes Task Force and removed itself from the Joint Powers Agreement with the cities and county.

The unit works under the direction of an Oversight Committee comprised of city managers, county officials, police chiefs and appointed citizens.

TASK FORCE OBJECTIVES:

1. To provide investigative assistance to local law enforcement agencies.
2. Coordinate drug enforcement investigations with local, state and federal agencies.
3. Reduce drug trafficking by targeting dealers and suppliers.
4. The detection, apprehension, and prosecution of major crimes.

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UNIT STAFFING:

The authorized staffing level is 1 Sheriff's Lieutenant, 1 Sheriff's Sergeant, 5 Deputy Sheriffs, 1 California Highway Patrol (CHP) Officer and 1 Secretary. One Special Agent from the California Department of Justice, Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement (BNE), and a one Special Agent from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) are liaisons to our unit. The Task Force budget covers Sheriff's personnel and the unit secretary. The co-located CHP officer, BNE special agent and FBI special agent's salaries are paid by their respective agencies. The County auto theft investigator is also housed with the Task Force. His statistical results are included in this report.

As a result of the terrorist attack on the United States on September 11th, 2001, the co-located FBI agent has since been reassigned to a federal counter-terrorism unit. The unit has been advised that once the FBI prioritizes and addresses operational issues they will again assign an agent to our unit. Over the past year we have continued to maintain our informal relationships with the FBI, which have resulted in significant seizures.

Two new investigators rotated to the unit during the past calendar year. One investigator replaced a promoted sergeant and the other replaced a CHP officer who was transferred. During 2003, the unit's performance statistically has exceeded last year's. Marin Major Crimes Task Force's overall statistics improved over 2002 in spite of the reduction of our staff by one position. Improved statistics should continue in 2004 as the newer investigators become acclimated to the unit and receive the necessary training.

Each Marin County law enforcement agency has a detective assigned to it as a liaison, this helps bridge any gap between the Task Force and that agency. Detectives are expected to make at least one weekly in person contact with their liaison agency. This year we have conducted three hundred and eighty agency contacts. These agency contacts are a reflection of our commitment in soliciting & providing services to the law enforcement community and citizens of Marin.

BUDGET:

The fiscal year 2002-2003 budget was \$1,320,271. The current fiscal year 2003-2004 budget is \$1,249,177. The decreased budget reflects the loss of one investigators position. The recommended budget for 2004/2005 will be 1,240,758, which is a slight decrease.

GENERAL SUMMARY:

The Marin County Major Crimes Task Force continues to provide assistance to other agencies and units. These units include: Coordination of Probation Enforcement (COPE), California Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement (BNE), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), U.S. Marshals Service, San Francisco P.D., Sonoma County Sheriffs Office Narcotics Unit, State Parole, and all Marin County Law Enforcement Agencies.

The Coordination of Probation Enforcement (COPE) is co-located with the Marin County Major

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Crimes Task Force. The combining of the two units continues to provide invaluable resources to both groups. We have been able to combine personnel, intelligence, training, equipment, and experience to make each unit more successful in achieving its objectives.

The Marin County Major Crimes Task Force fields many calls for assistance after hours and on weekends. Every effort is made to have off-duty Task Force personnel respond to assist patrol officers with complicated cases, provide technical assistance or take over investigations beyond the capabilities of local agencies. The Task Force has also initiated several different duty shifts and rotating days off to better saturate and integrate the unit into the drug culture.

The Marin County Major Crimes Task Force, this past year, again received additional non-supplanting funds from "HIDTA" (High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area), a federally funded program. This past year, the unit utilized HIDTA funds to pay for overtime for special cases, training seminars for unit personnel and the unit's wireless telephone service. The Marin County Major Crimes Task Force received \$22,300 in HIDTA funds for 2003. Due to Federal budget constraints that amount will drop to \$16,500 in 2004.

Marin County is an integral part of the Northern California HIDTA. Interstate highways connect Marin County and the Bay Area to the Central Valley and Northern California. Drug trafficking organizations, especially those manufacturing and distributing methamphetamine operate within a hundred miles of the Bay Area and have established collection networks for precursor chemicals, manufacturing facilities, distribution networks, and money laundering in close proximity to Marin County. The counties in central California contain rural areas that are ideal for manufacturing methamphetamine. Narcotics activities in the two adjoining HIDTA regions impact both directly and indirectly those illicit activities in our region. Much of the marijuana grown in Northern California is sent to the Bay Area for distribution or transshipment to other regions of the country. Much of the narcotics specifically being brought into our county is controlled by independent dealers and is being transported by private vehicles.

The seizure of assets this year was \$208,571 vs. \$100,295 in 2002. The unit received a total of \$238,033 in asset forfeiture funds this calendar vs. \$180,905.89 in asset forfeiture funds last year. The oversight committee has been apprised of the diminishing asset forfeiture funds at previous committee meetings dating back to June of 1998. The fact that we have doubled the amount of asset forfeitures over last year should greatly alleviate this issue. We show a year-end outstanding balance of \$671,811 as pending asset forfeiture monies due this unit

The Task Force continued to provide narcotics training to various institutions and community groups throughout 2003. Several investigators have made D.A.R.E. and other presentations at elementary schools throughout the County. They have also made presentations at the Sheriff's Department's Citizen Academy, for local civic groups and neighborhood organizations.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY:

There were a total of 320 referred cases with the charges of 11350,11352 and 11550 H&S that were referred to the D.A. in 2003.

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A total of 239 criminal cases were generated in 2003 (153 in 2002, 152 in 2001, 189 in 2000, 163 in 1999, 128 in 1998). This was a significant increase of 64% in overall cases. An increase in the other cities cases can be seen as a consequence- (Novato). The breakdown by cities is as follows:

	<u>FY 2002</u>	<u>FY 2003</u>
San Rafael	62	*69 from 1/1/03 thru 6/30/03 <u>Eight remainder of year.</u>
Novato	32	78
Twin Cities	15	19
Mill Valley	12	13
Sausalito	5	5
Fairfax	3	4
Kentfield	1	4
Marin City	8	23
Greenbrae	4	1
Bolinas	2	0
Woodacre	2	0
San Anselmo	7	10
Tiburon	0	5
Forest Knolls	0	0
Tomales	0	1
Stinson Beach	0	1

Cases outside the county that had a Marin County connection include the following cities: San Francisco, Richmond, San Pablo, El Sobrante, Rohnert Park, Vallejo, Santa Rosa, and Napa.

	<u>FY 2002</u>	<u>FY 2003</u>
<u>Training Received:</u> HOURS	460	293.5
<u>Court Time:</u> HOURS	63	41.5

	<u>FY 2002</u>	<u>FY 2003</u>
<u>Buy Money Spent:</u> MMCTF	\$50,450	\$44,155
FBI	0	
DEA	0	
BNE	0	\$800

	<u>FY 2002</u>	<u>FY 2003</u>
<u>Drug buys:</u>	106	120

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<u>Assists to L.E Agencies:</u>	39	66
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<u>Arrests:</u>	97	101
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<u>Reports Written:</u>	<u>FY 2003</u>
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Criminal:	162
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Informational:	113
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Total Amount of Drugs Removed from the Streets:

	<u>FY 2002</u>	<u>FY 2003</u>	<u>Value</u>
Marijuana (plants)	717	239	\$542,530
Marijuana (processed)	20 lbs.	29.72 lbs.	\$269,857
Cocaine	4.88 lbs.	7.16 lbs.	\$324,348
Methamphetamine	5.9 lbs.	4.6 lbs.	\$208,840
Methamphetamine Oil	16 gallons	0	
Heroin	4.6 grs.	0	
GHRE	0	0	
Methamphetamine labs	1	0	
Hashish	0	26.2 gr.	\$1,892
Psilocybin mushrooms	23.7 gr.	70.3 gr.	\$1,200
Ecstasy Pills	2,720 tablets	2,878 tablets	\$71,950
Opium	0	0	
LSD	1 tab	0	
GHB	2 liters	5 oz.	\$5,000
Pseudo ephedrine	0	6,500 tabs	\$3,900
Red Phosphorus	6 lbs.	7 gr.	\$148
Steroids	55 tablets	0	
Oxycontin	0	108 tabs	\$2,700
Codine	0	868 tabs	\$17,360
Khat	0	47.3 gr.	\$21
			\$1,448,861

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Estimated value of drugs removed from circulation (2003):

Over 1.4 million dollars (\$1,448,861)

Asset Seizure:

	<u>FY 2002</u>	<u>FY 2003</u>
Seized:	\$100,295	\$208,571
Forfeited to MCTF:	\$180,905	\$238,033
Pending Forfeiture:	\$519,892	\$671,811
Account Balance:	\$402,619	\$399,165

The Marin County Sheriff's Department Air Patrol unit assisted the Task Force Task on six missions for a total of 17 flight hours and 37 person-hours.

2003 Auto Theft in Marin:

Across the country auto theft continues to rise and Marin County appears to be no different. Though Marin County experienced only a slight increase from 2001 to 2002 (674 thefts to 681 thefts), the amount of auto thefts reported to Marin police agencies increased 38% from 2002 to 2003 (681 thefts to 937 thefts). The City of San Rafael still leads the county in auto thefts accounting for approximately 46%, while the City of Novato has the second most thefts accounting for 22%.

Current trends continue to show that early nineties Hondas, Acura Integra's and Toyota Camry's are the thieves favorites. This may be due to the ease of defeating their locking and ignition mechanisms with shaved or crude manufactured keys. Forty percent of Marin's stolen vehicles end up in east bay communities. Interviews with suspects from the east bay have revealed they view Marin County as an easy target, as many of our residents continue to leave their cars unlocked with their keys inside.

To combat the rising auto theft trend, the addition of a part-time detective is being pursued with a hopeful start date around June or July of 2004. A background is currently underway by the Sheriff's Department on recently retired Novato Police Detective Rick Berndt to fill this position. With the additional manpower, the auto theft unit is looking to redirect its focus on more proactive efforts in order to target many repeat auto theft offenders.

Significant Cases in 2003:

Novato:

In March 2003, a Novato patrol officer located a reported stolen 2003 Mustang in the Skylark Motel parking lot and contacted Detective Deadman of the Auto Theft Task Force. Detective Deadman responded to the area and set up surveillance on the vehicle. Detective Deadman lo-

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cated a second 2003 Mustang parked in the area, which turned out to be recently purchased using the stolen identity of a Sonoma County Sheriff Dispatcher, who had recently had her purse stolen. Contact was made with Detectives from the Sonoma County Sheriff's office that responded to assist. After several hours of surveillance, two suspects were identified going from one of the motel's rooms to the two stolen vehicles. With the assistance of members from the Major Crimes Task Force, entry was made into the room. Two suspects were taken into custody. Inside the room, burglary tools, stolen property, illegal drugs and multiple bags of stolen mail were located. Two computers were located in the room set up to scanners and printers. Multiple false California drivers' licenses were found with the suspect's pictures on them. The identity theft team from Northbay Heat, were called in to assist in the investigation. In all, they identified 152 victims of identity theft associated to these two suspects.

County:

In July 2003, a MCSO patrol deputy who had just recovered a stolen motorcycle in the Blackpoint area of Novato contacted Detective Deadman. The patrol Deputy advised Detective Deadman of a possible suspect involved, however, there was no evidence to make an arrest. Detective Deadman was familiar with the suspect named, as he had arrested the subject in 2002 for four stolen motorcycles. Through investigative work, Detective Deadman was able to develop enough evidence to secure an arrest warrant for the suspect. Working with a confidential informant, Detective Deadman was able to set up surveillance on a location where the suspect frequented. Once observed, the suspect was taken into custody on the 10851 CVC warrant. On the suspect's person, Detective Deadman located more stolen property and enough illegal drugs and packaging to add the additional charge of drug sales. Marin County's COPE Unit got involved as the subject was on active probation. They in turn were able to use the suspect arrested to make several drug buys on four different mid-level dealers who in turn were arrested themselves.

IJ: 4-17-04

Cop on bridge duty gives chase to stolen Jeep

By Gary Klien, IJ reporter

Even at 4 in the morning, the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge seismic retrofit project can ruin a driver's day.

Two auto-theft suspects were foiled early yesterday while passing the retrofit construction area in a stolen Jeep Cherokee, police said. The vehicle, which was stolen just after 3:30 a.m. in Marinwood, might have gone by unnoticed, except that a California Highway Patrol officer had been assigned to the bridge to protect the work crew overnight.

The CHP officer, who had just heard a police bulletin about the stolen Jeep, recognized the vehicle and tried to stop it at the east end of the bridge, said Marin County sheriff's Sgt. Doug Pittman. The driver of the stolen car took off, leading the CHP officer on a chase into Richmond.

IJ: 4-20-04

Car thefts in Marin continue on a record pace

By Gary Klien, IJ reporter

Two suspected car thieves were arrested early yesterday after a police pursuit from Ross to Tiburon, where the suspects crashed on the tight curves of Paradise Drive.

The chase was the latest incident in a recent outbreak of vehicle rip-offs. Investigators said if vehicle thefts continue at their current pace in Marin, the total for 2004 could exceed last year's total of 937 - which itself was a 38 percent jump over 2002.

"We're getting killed," said sheriff's Sgt. Doug Pittman. "(A few) years ago, we had a total of just over 300. At the pace we're at now, we expect to be over a thousand."

SAMPLES OF SIGNIFICANT MCMCTF CASES:

Kentfield:



Kentfield kidnap suspect arrested

Author: Gary Klien, IJ reporter

Date: November 7, 2003

Publication: Marin Independent Journal (San Rafael, CA)

A 36-year-old Sonoma County man was arrested on suspicion of kidnapping and sexual assault yesterday after allegedly pulling a teenage girl into his truck in Kentfield and leading police on a 40-minute high-speed chase up the coast, investigators said.

The girl, a Central Marin resident, was returned to her family after police stopped the truck with spike strips in rural Sonoma County, sheriff's officials said. Police did not release the girl's age or hometown to protect her

Trial ordered in sexual assault case

Date: January 9, 2004

Publication: Marin Independent Journal (San Rafael, CA)

By Con Garretson

A San Rafael business owner who confessed to snorting cocaine and sexually assaulting a teenager during an extended police chase last November has been ordered to stand trial in Marin Superior Court.

At the end of a preliminary hearing yesterday, Judge Terrence Boren determined there is enough evidence for 36-year-old John Robert Barossi of Penngrove to face five felony charges: kidnapping with intent to commit a sex crime, evading arrest, and child endangerment.

Marin City men arrested in Santa Rosa home invasion

Gary Klien, IJ reporter

Saturday, April 10, 2004 - Two Marin City men were among a group of suspects arrested yesterday after a home invasion robbery and beating in Santa Rosa, police said. Shortly after midnight, someone knocked at the door. When Almlie answered it, he was confronted by four men, one of whom pulled out a gun and demanded marijuana. None wore masks.

When the victims said there was no marijuana in the apartment, the suspects forced their way inside, armed themselves with knives from the household and tied up the victims.

The men were then pistol-whipped and the woman was pistol-whipped and sexually assaulted, said Santa Rosa police Sgt. Craig Schwartz.

Drug-sniffing dogs to return to Novato schools

Con Garretson, IJ reporter

Thursday, April 08, 2004 - Two drug-sniffing black Labradors will visit Novato Unified School District campuses through the end of the semester and appear likely to return in the fall.

Dylan and Rowdy will continue to make unannounced visits to sniff for drugs under a new contract with Auburn-based Interquest Detection Canines of Northern California that was approved by the school board Tuesday night.

The board approved the service through the end of the school year on a 6-0 vote. Trustee Jeffrey McAlpin was absent.

Through Feb. 12, the dogs made two-dozen "alerts" at six campuses since midway through the spring 2003 semester. An alert is when a dog signals possible contraband twice in succession in the same location, triggering a school administrator to contact suspect students. Discipline or police contact can follow depending on the circumstances.

Questionnaire answers by Novato seventh-, ninth- and 11th-graders indicated the use and availability of drugs on Novato campuses was near or above county and state levels detailed in a state study.

Experts worried about Marin youths' pot use

By Jennifer Gollan, IJ reporter

Thursday, March 18, 2004 - Drug's potency, addictiveness raised at forum

More than 200 people turned out yesterday to hear Bay Area health experts present research on the increasing potency and addictiveness of marijuana, which research shows is far more prevalent among Marin youth compared with the national average.

Marin youth tend to use marijuana more than others because their parents have a

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more casual attitude toward pot than their more conservative counterparts nationwide, experts said.

But they said revealing research on the evolution of the drug and its increasingly dramatic impact on the human body has made it all the more important that parents, teachers and counselors find ways to educate Marin youth on the ill-effects of the drug.

Twin Cities:

In December of 2002, Task Force investigators began undercover buys from a suspect selling 1-ounce quantities of Cocaine. This investigation concluded in June of 2003. The undercover officer completed seven transactions purchasing a total of 22 ounces of Cocaine. The case concluded with a buy/bust and the service of search warrants at three locations in Marin and San Francisco simultaneously. In total four suspects were arrested, an arrest warrant has been issued for one additional suspect, more than 68 ounces of Cocaine were found and over \$34,000.00 was seized along with three vehicles. This effectively dismantled an upper level drug trafficking organization. **03-187**

Detectives enlisted the assistance of the Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement to conduct an undercover officer buy operation of Psilocybin mushrooms. In total over 92 grams of Psilocybin was purchased from the suspect at his place of business at a mall in Corte Madera. The suspect was arrested and pled guilty to sales counts. **03-109**

Fairfax:

In July of 2003, Detectives received information regarding juveniles selling drugs in the Parkade during the afternoon and evening hours. Detectives conducted a surveillance of the Parkade for several hours during the evening on one occasion. Sergeant P. Torres joined the detectives in the operation. No hand to hand transactions were observed and no drug use was observed. Sergeant Torres was able to point out some of the local people suspected of drug sales. Detectives developed NIs (narcotic investigations) on some of these subjects to further investigate them and their activities. As of this writing no intelligence has been developed on these individuals that resulted in a buy operation.

On several other occasions detectives conducted surveillance in the area to observe activity. No hand to hand transactions or drug use was observed. It is worth noting that we have been told by suspects in custody or confidential informants that there is some drug related activity occurring at the Parkade. Much of this activity involves juveniles who appear to be a small, close-knit group making investigations difficult.

In October of 2003, detectives conducted an undercover officer buy operation in Fairfax at a dry cleaning business where reported sales of Marijuana had occurred. The officer engaged the employee in conversation about Marijuana; however, the employee never sold anything to the officer.

In January of 2003, detectives conducted a controlled buy operation, using a confidential informant, at a pizza parlor in Fairfax due to reports of Cocaine sales. No transaction was completed. Further investigation of the two employees suspected of Cocaine sales developed no new leads.

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Mill Valley:

(***Began in San Rafael, suspect had homes in Terra Linda and Mill Valley)

Detectives from the Task Force, C.O.P.E. unit, Drug Enforcement Administration and Northern California HIDTA served search warrants at residences in Marin and Southern California. A total of five search warrants were served at four residences and a financial institution. Two of the residences searched were in Southern California (Hollywood area) and the others were in Marin (Mill Valley and Terra Linda).

All totaled, three suspects were arrested, a Harley-Davidson motorcycle stolen out of San Francisco was recovered, a Ducati motorcycle believed to be stolen was impounded, over 14 ounces of Methamphetamine was found and more than \$46,000.00 was seized. Additionally, HIDTA personnel seized more than \$30,000.00 of high tech computer equipment used in the manufacture of false identification and documents. A suspect arrested in Southern California is currently working with the Drug Enforcement Administration to develop additional cases. As of this writing over 10 kilos of cocaine, more than \$45,000 and multiple vehicles have been seized. 03-091

A Confidential Informant was utilized to introduce an undercover officer to a suspect who was selling Marijuana and Ecstasy in a convenience market in San Anselmo. Beginning in April of 2003 and culminating in a buy/bust in May 2003. In all, there were seven transactions completed for a total of 17.5 grams of Keef (concentrated marijuana) and 436 grams of Marijuana.

Detectives obtained search warrants for two locations, a residence in Pinole and the store in San Anselmo. Detectives conducted a buy/bust in Mill Valley (one pound of Marijuana) and searched the suspect's residence. Two suspects were arrested and the searches yielded an additional 10.2 grams of Keef and 24.3 grams of Marijuana. This impacted a mid-level drug trafficking organization. 03-070

Task Force detectives received information, during 2002, of suspicious activity at a residence in San Rafael. Detectives conducted several surveillances and used other investigative techniques in an attempt to develop a case on the residents. In April of 2003, Detectives utilized a Confidential Informant to conduct controlled buys at the location. A search warrant was served in June 2003 at the residence. Three suspects, including the source of supply, were ultimately arrested. Additionally, the original suspect was evicted from the trailer park. A search of the residence of the source of supply in Napa was also conducted. This resulted in new charges being initiated for a weapon found in the residence. Detectives were able to determine that the suspect had another source of supply that was living in Mill valley. An investigation yielded sales charges on that suspect as well. The suspect was arrested and is currently in the court process. This impacted a mid-level drug trafficking organization operating in Marin and Napa counties. **03-068**

Novato:

In October 2003, detectives intercepted a Methamphetamine dealer enroute to Marin from Sonoma County. Detectives had conducted a buy operation utilizing a Confidential Informant making multiple buys over several months. Detectives interviewed the suspect and convinced him to target higher-level dealers for the Marin County Task Force. Ultimately, two additional suspects were identified and arrested. **03-128**

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Detectives from the Task Force and C.O.P.E. conducted a buy operation, which culminated in a search warrant service in July 2003. The service of a search warrant yielded three arrests, Cocaine, Marijuana and the recovery of a .45 caliber weapon at a second residence. **03-106**

In March of 2003, two search warrants were served at residences in Novato. This was the culmination of an investigation that spanned several months and involved controlled buy narcotic transactions. Detectives found 31.6 grams of Methamphetamine, .2 grams of Heroin, .5 grams of MDMA, 12.5 grams of Marijuana, more than 90 syringes and several items of suspected stolen property during the searches. Six weapons and more than \$2,800.00 in cash were also seized. Two suspects were arrested. The arrests of these subjects impacted a mid-level drug trafficking organization in Marin County. **03-145**

In March of 2003 after a buy operation/investigation of three months, a search warrant was served at a residence in Novato. Two suspects were arrested on narcotic charges. The arrest of the primary suspect impacted a mid-level drug trafficking organization in Marin County. Detectives found 55.3 grams of Methamphetamine; .01 grams of Heroin, more than 15 syringes and \$350.00 in cash were seized. **03-144 (03-144 & 145 are related dealers/cases)**

In April 2003, Detectives conducted a probation search at a home in Novato. While at the location a subject arrived and was interviewed. The subject was unable to provide proper identification. The subject had lied about his true identity and was arrested for warrants. Subsequent to a search of the vehicle under his control, suspected stolen property, a laptop computer was found. A check did not indicate the computer was entered as stolen property. Detectives took the computer for further investigation. Detectives were able to access the files on the computer. The files provided information as to the possible owner's name. Detectives contacted the person and determined that the computer was stolen in a "window smash" auto burglary in San Rafael. Additional charges were added to the subject's booking and the San Rafael Police Department was notified of the connection to their case. **03-065**

Detectives conducted a series of controlled buys that enabled them to obtain a search warrant for a residence in Novato. The search yielded an arrest of one suspect for an outstanding felony warrant and the discovery of 361.3 grams of Methamphetamine, 5 ounces of GHB and 71 grams of Marijuana in the possession of a second subject. A second subject developed into a Confidential Informant and provided information on an upper level Methamphetamine dealer based in Southern California who was distributing narcotics and money, via a package delivery service, between Northern and Southern California. **03-084 (this lead to 03-091)**

San Anselmo:

A Confidential Informant was utilized to introduce an undercover officer to a suspect who was selling Marijuana and Ecstasy in a convenience market in San Anselmo. Beginning in April of 2003 and culminating in a buy/bust in May 2003. In all, there were seven transactions completed for a total of 17.5 grams of Keef and 436 grams of Marijuana.

Detectives obtained search warrants for two locations, a residence in Pinole and the store in San Anselmo. Detectives conducted a buy/bust in Mill Valley (one pound of Marijuana) and

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searched the suspect's residence. Two suspects were arrested and the searches yielded an additional 10.2 grams of Keef and 24.3 grams of Marijuana. This impacted a mid-level drug trafficking organization. **03-070**

San Rafael:

No longer participating in MCMCTF.

Sausalito:

A suspect who had been a fugitive for an extended period of time was located and arrested by detectives on an outstanding \$100,000 warrant. **03-062**

Tiburon:

(***Began in San Rafael, suspect had a home in Tiburon)

In February of 2003, Detectives began an undercover buy operation and completed five transactions purchasing more than 115 grams of Cocaine over the next several months. The case concluded with a buy/bust in June 2003. Detectives served search warrants at five locations in Marin and Sonoma at the conclusion of the undercover buy and the arrest of the suspect. Over 285 grams of Cocaine, 36 grams of Marijuana, 177 capsules of MDMA (Ecstasy), small amounts of Keef and Psilocybin mushrooms were found and over \$27,000.00 was seized. The primary suspect continues to assist the Task Force and the Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement with future investigations of an International MDMA trafficking organization. **03-038**

Marin City:

A CI buy operation resulted in the service of a search warrant. Two subjects arrested, 157.2 grams of Cocaine (powder), 9.6 grams of Cocaine (base), 6 grams of Marijuana and a loaded MAC-10 were seized. Residents of Section 8, low income, housing lost their assistance status. **03-051**

A CI buy operation resulted in the service of a search warrant. Suspect arrested after 3.6 grams of rock Cocaine were discovered. Subject did assist Task Force with a buy operation on her source of supply. A resident of Section 8, low income, housing lost her assistance status. **03-149**

A CI buy operation resulted in the arrest of the suspect when he arrived to complete a pre-arranged Cocaine sale to CI. Suspect fled from a traffic stop, destroyed evidence, and had approximately 6 grams of Cocaine in his possession at the time of arrest. Court case is ongoing and suspect; a Richmond resident selling in Marin, faces up to 8 years of State Prison time. **03-150**

INTELLIGENCE:

(The Oversight Committee has suggested that interviews be conducted to determine the effect that a narcotic user/dealer has on the entire Marin community. The interviews would "put a face" on the statistics involved when the Task Force arrests a suspect. This information could also be used to correlate the level of service being provided to the entire community by the Task Force when the individual is arrested, convicted and removed from circulation The following is the results of two such interviews)

- **Crime Analysis Interview:**

Crime Analysis Interview #1

Marin County Jail April 2004

SUBJECT:

A 38-year-old white male adult (WMA) who has been a resident in Marin County for the past 16 years. The subject is not a high school graduate, but was able to obtain a GED while incarcerated with the California Youth Authority.

CRIMINAL HISTORY:

The subject states that he is "no longer active". The subject denies being a criminal and claims to be only an addict.

The subject admits to becoming active in criminal activity at age 8. In 1979, at age 13, subject was arrested for petty theft and possession of marijuana. Subject was sentenced to 6 months and sent to juvenile county camp. At age 16 he was arrested for grand theft and spent 3 years with the CA Youth authority.

The subject believes he has been arrested approximately 40 times. The subject has never been to prison, but has 3 potential felony strike entries in his criminal history.

CRIMES COMMITTED THROUGHOUT MARIN COUNTY:

The subject has committed crimes ranging from 422PC (Terrorist Threats), 487PC (Grand Theft), 488PC (Petty Theft), 485PC (Appropriate Lost/Stolen Property), 11352HS and 11379HS (Transport/Sales), 11377HS (Possession of Drugs), 11350HS (Under the Influence), 11351HS and 11352HS (Possession of Narcotic for Sale), 11358HS (Plant/Cultivation of Marijuana). The subject committed the thefts and sales of drugs to support his narcotic life style.

DRUGS OF CHOICE:

Methamphetamine

METHODS USED TO OBTAIN MONEY FOR DRUGS:

Subject committed petty and grand theft. Subject was the middle man (runner) for drug dealers. Subject sold drugs and traded drugs for stolen property.

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MONEY SPENT ON DRUGS:

\$40-\$150 per day used for drugs. The money was obtained by selling \$200-\$1,000 worth of stolen property or by drug sales.

INJURIES:

Some scrapes from fights.

CRIMINAL ACTIVITY AS COMPARED TO ASSOCIATES:

Subject claims that his criminal activity was basically equal to his associates.

Crime Analysis Interview #2

Marin County Jail April 2004

SUBJECT:

A 43-year-old white female adult (WFA) who has been a resident of Marin County for most of her life.

CRIMINAL HISTORY:

Subject admits to becoming active as a criminal at age 10 (a period of 33 years). She believes she has been arrested approximately 15 times, however in a review of her criminal history shows that she has been arrested over 25 different times since 1991. She states that she has committed all kinds of crimes to support her drug habit. She states that the number of arrests would have been higher had she been caught every time she committed a crime. She also states that she has been to prison 9 times from 1994-2000. The first time in 1994 she did 2 years, and the rest of her prison time ranged from 5 months to 1 year in prison. She said that when she violated her parole and was sent back to prison that she was not arrested on any new cases, although she would have had new cases had she been caught.

CRIMES COMMITTED THROUGHOUT MARIN:

She has committed crimes ranging from 211PC (robbery), 10851VC (auto theft), 459PC (burglary), 496PC (stolen property), 488PC (petty theft), 11350HS (possession of narcotic), 4140BP (possession of a hypodermic needle), 11364HS (possession of controlled substance paraphernalia), 11351HS (possession of narcotic), 647(b) PC (prostitution) to support her drug habit.

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DRUG OF CHOICE:

Marijuana, Meth, and ultimately Heroin.

METHODS USED TO OBTAIN MONEY FOR DRUGS:

She admitted to stealing cars, prostitution, stole merchandise from stores, purse snatching, robbery, credit card theft and embezzlement from jobs. She states that she made approximately 20-30% of retail price for stolen items. She told me that drug dealers would place orders for clothing, jewelry in exchange for drugs.

MONEY SPENT ON DRUGS:

She said her drug habit ranged from \$100-\$300 a day. The money was obtained by stealing items from stores to sell. She said she also stole purses (for cash) when it took too long to sell stolen property.

INJURIES SUSTAINED DURING HER CAREER:

She said she has been shot at, her throat cut with a knife, and beaten several times requiring hospital visits.

CRIMINAL ACTIVITY COMPARED TO ASSOCIATES:

She claims that her criminal activity was basically the same as her associates. She told me that sometimes the violence was more and sometimes less. It was just the luck of the draw.

CONCLUSION:

Marin Major Crimes Mission Statement:

It is the mission of the MCMCTF that the citizen's of Marin shall live in a narcotic free community. The community shall be protected from crimes such as burglary, larceny, and physical assaults, which are directly related to the use of illegal substances. The citizens of Marin deserve protection from personal attacks, property crimes and our children sheltered from poisonous substances.

With the continued budget cuts by the State of California all member cities will certainly review their involvement in the Marin County Major Crimes Task Force. A review of the information in this report may not provide the most complete picture of the impact of narcotic use and trafficking on all Marin cities.

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The enactment Penal Code Section 1210.1 which prohibits the incarceration of those people (users) convicted of a “nonviolent drug possession offense”, with few exceptions, has eliminated punishment for simple possession offering treatment programs instead. The impact of this continues to result in a reluctance of arrestees to cooperate with law enforcement in providing intelligence information on his or her narcotic dealers.

In regard to Proposition 215, the medicinal marijuana initiative that passed in 1996, the liaison that the Marin County Task Force maintains with state and federal agencies is invaluable when assessing how best to address issues with prosecution of those illegally growing and selling marijuana in Marin.

The Task Force has investigators who are experienced and trained in conducting undercover operations where the user involvement is minimal and undercover officers are utilized. This allows for a more complex investigation to develop and often yields a higher-level dealer. Task Force investigators are able to take this information and network with many other local, state and federal agencies to effectively impact drug trafficking organizations.

Many of the cases investigated during 2003 involved multiple municipalities in Marin and beyond. We have historically found that a person dealing drugs in one city may be supplying a person who is committing burglaries or other crimes in another community to support his/her habit. This mutually dependent relationship continues to have an effect on the whole of Marin.

Our vision at the Marin County Task Force is to reach a point that drugs are no longer being trafficked in Marin. It is quite likely that this unit, in combination with all law enforcement, will not realize this vision in the near future, but our goal and mission is to strive for this. The Task Force has determined through proactive enforcement and intelligence that there has not been a decline in demand for narcotics in Marin. Marin’s affluence and demonstrated demand has created a hungry environment for dealers. We have even seen the daylight abduction and sexual assault of a juvenile by a suspect who attributed his actions to narcotic influence/involvement.

These conditions necessitate continual enforcement pressure, an increase in community and offender education in an effort to decrease demand, and an increased commitment towards law enforcement cooperation.

The Task Force remains as an undeniably essential and integral part of the Law Enforcement commitment to the Citizens of Marin in providing a safe and drug free community.

Lt. Rick D. Russell
Commander, Marin County Major Crimes Task Force